

Projects

The National Society has a number of charitable projects:

Kurn Hattin Homes, Inc., is a residential school for underprivileged boys and girls at Westminster, Vermont. *Clarke Schools* for Hearing & Speech, is the first institution using the oral method of teaching the deaf. Both have long benefited financially from National Society and Colony support for their many activities.

The *Emma Hardy Slade Student Loan Fund*, established at Middlebury College, Vermont; Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts; and Austin College, Sherman, Texas; and administered by the schools, provides loans for Juniors and Seniors having two generations of American ancestry.

The *Maud Brown Pendleton Student Loan Fund and Scholarship*, established at Pacific University, the New England College of the Northwest, provides the means for many students to complete their undergraduate education.

The *Scholarship Endowment Fund* supplements tuition for both needy students and needy teachers-in-training.

Work of the *Veterans' Hospital Committee* is nationwide and reflects the members' gratitude to and interest in those veterans whose wartime injuries require short- or long-term care. Personal service as well as financial assistance are Colony and National objectives.

Members' work with and their financial support of *U.S.O.* clubs originated in San Francisco in order to serve the many troops going to and returning from Vietnam. Recognition of the need to support the overseas *U.S.O.* clubs used by American servicemen prompted the members of the National Society to broaden its interest in the clubs based in Europe and the Orient.

To members of New England Women, *American Defense* means more than guns. It means the defense of spiritual and religious rights and defense against attacks made on American ideals and traditions.

Publications

The *National Society of New England Women Yearbook*, a resume of the work accomplished during the year by the Colonies and the National Society as well as the Congress proceedings, is compiled for publication in the fall.

The Clipper is published four times per year and provides up-to-date information on the activities of the National Society and the Colonies.

For more information contact:



National Society of New England Women

www.newenglandwomen.org

Organized
January 24, 1895
New York, NY

History

The National Society of New England Women was organized January 24, 1895, by Mrs. William Gerry Slade and incorporated in the State of New York February 20, 1895. The object of the Society was "to bring together women of similar background of New England ancestry to engage in charitable, educational and patriotic work and thus perpetuate the lofty ideals and examples of their forefathers."

Eligibility

Women over the age of eighteen years, with proof of lineal descent from an ancestor born in New England prior to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States in 1789 or before 1700 in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Long Island, are eligible for membership.

Members

Women meeting eligibility criteria may become members of Colonies. There is a provision for Members-at-Large for women who wish to be affiliated with the Society but live in areas where there are no Colonies.

Recognizing the advantage of enrolling younger members, Cradle Roll Membership was established for children from birth to six years old and Junior Membership for girls six years old through eighteen years.

Insignia

The insignia is as interesting as it is symbolic. The six crests of the New England states are equally spaced on a golden circle. Massachusetts is represented by the figure of the Indian chief, Massasoit; Rhode Island, the anchor; Maine, the pine tree; New Hampshire, the ship; Vermont, the stag's head; and Connecticut, the three intertwined grape vines. The stalk of maize signifies remembrance of the Colony saved from starvation by this Indian manna in the wilderness.

Colors

The colors are red and white and the explanation is this: The good ship *Mayflower* sailed from England under the flag of Saint George, white flag with red cross. This flag, with the addition of the crowned monogram of the King, was used in 1643 when the colonies of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut and New Haven formed an alliance under the name of the United Colonies of New England, from which colonies we proudly claim our heritage.

New England Benediction

"May the purity of the snows of New England; the uprightness of her fir trees; the strength of her hills; the peace of her valleys and the faith in God of our forefathers abide in our hearts and be manifested in our lives."

*Mrs. Flynn Guernsey Austin, Founder
Past National Officers Association*

Dues & Fees

Colony dues vary but the application fee to the National Society is \$50 plus \$25 national dues. Cradle Roll application fee is \$1. Junior application fee is \$5 plus \$1 annual dues, which may be paid up through the applicant's eighteenth birthday.

There is a Life Membership fee of five hundred dollars for those who prefer this type of membership.

Colonies

With New York City the headquarters of the Society in 1895 branches were organized in other parts of the United States and by 1905 the Society had expanded from coast to coast. Members in New York City, the original group, became members of the New York City Colony and after the reorganization of the Society in 1913, all Colonies were brought under an organization known as the National Society of New England Women. The name Colony, rather than branch, as it reminds one of the Colonial period, was suggested by the niece of New England poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Colony Programs

Relative to the purpose for which they exist, the programs at Colony Meetings generally have some New England background - brought out through history, literature, arts and artists, music, persons, places, antiques and heirlooms.